REMARKS

Claims 21-45 are pending. Claims 21-48 are new. In a December 18, 2003 office action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-20. Those Claims have been cancelled.

NEW CLAIMS: The new Claims can be divided into three sets – Claims 21-31, Claims 32-42, and Claims 43-48 – with each set having a single independent claim – Claims 21, 32, and 43 respectively.

Support for Claims 21-31

Claim 21 is directed to a method and includes the following limitations. Support for each limitation is provided in brackets in line with that limitation.

1. distributing a plurality of information objects across a plurality of servers; *[Specification, page 5 through page 6, line 7 and Fig. 3]*

2. providing a redirection object for each information object; *[Specification, page 6, line 10 through page 7, line 20 and Fig. 4]*

3. wherein each information object includes an indirect link to another information object, each indirect link to an information object being a link to a redirection object for that information object. *[Specification, page 6, line 10 through page 7, line 20 and Fig. 4]*

Claim 22 depends form Claim 21 and includes the following limitations. Support for each limitation is provided in brackets in line with that limitation.

1. a first server presenting a first information object of the plurality of information objects to a client terminal; *[Specification, page 5 through page 6, line 7 and Fig. 3]*

2. receiving a request for a second information object of the plurality of information objects from the client terminal, the request corresponding to a selection of the indirect link included in the first information object; *[Specification, page 7, line 21 through page 8, line 21, and Fig. 5]*

3. determining if a second server hosting the second information object is operational; *[Specification, page 7, line 21 through page 8, line 21, and Fig. 5]*

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4. returning an instruction redirecting the client terminal to the second information object if the second server is determined to be operational. *[Specification, page 7, line 21 through page 8, line 21, and Fig. 5]*

Claims 23-30 include limitations similar to those found in Claims 2-8, now cancelled. Support for Claim 31 can be found in the Specification, page 6, line 10 through page 7, line 20 and Fig. 4. Consequently, the addition of Claims 21-31 is supported by the Specification and does not add new matter.

Support for Claims 32-42

Claim 32 is directed to a system and includes the following limitations. Support for each limitation is provided in brackets in line with that limitation.

1. a plurality of servers, each hosting a different information object; *[Specification, page 5 through page 6, line 7 and Fig. 3]*

2. a redirection object for each information object; *[Specification, page 6, line 10 through page 7, line 20 and Fig. 4]*

3. wherein each information object includes an indirect link to another information object, each indirect link to an information object being a link to a redirection object for that information object. *[Specification, page 6, line 10 through page 7, line 20 and Fig. 4]*

Claim 33 depends from Claim 32 and includes the following limitations. Support for each limitation is provided in brackets in line with that limitation.

1. a central server operable to receive a request for an information object from a client terminal, determine if a one of the plurality of servers hosting the requested information object is operational, and to pass the request to a redirection object corresponding to the requested information object if the server hosting the requested information object is determined to be operational; and ; *[Specification, page 7, line 21 through page 8, line 21, and Fig. 5]*

2. wherein the redirection object is operable to return an instruction redirecting the client terminal to the requested information object. ; *[Specification, page 7, line 21 through page 8, line 21, and Fig. 5]*

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Claims 34 depends from Claim 33 and includes the following limitations. Support for each limitation is provided in brackets in line with that limitation.

1. a centralized database storing a status of each of said servers; *[Specification, page 5 through page 6, line 7 and Fig. 3]*

2. wherein the central server is operable to access the centralized database to determine whether a selected one of the plurality of servers hosting information objects is operational. *[Specification, page 7, line 21 through page 8, line 21, and Fig. 5]*

Claims 35-42 include limitations similar to those found in Claims 10-16, now cancelled. Consequently, the addition of Claims 32-42 is supported by the Specification and does not add new matter.

Support for Claims 43-48

Claim 43 is directed to a method and includes the following limitations. Support for each limitation is provided in brackets in line with that limitation.

1. hosting a plurality of information web pages on a plurality of distinct web servers; *[Specification, page 5 through page 6, line 7 and Fig. 3]*

2. hosting a plurality of redirection web pages on a central web server; *[Specification, page 6, line 10 through page 7, line 20 and Fig. 4]*

3. wherein each information web page includes an indirect link to another information web page, each indirect link to an information web page being a link to a redirection web page for that information web page. *[Specification, page 6, line 10 through page 7, line 20 and Fig. 4]*

Claim 44 depends form Claim 43 and includes the following limitations. Support for each limitation is provided in brackets in line with that limitation.

1. a first web server presenting a first information web page of the plurality of information web pages to a client terminal; *[Specification, page 5 through page 6, line 7 and Fig. 3]*

2. receiving a request for a second information web page of the plurality of information web pages from the client terminal, the request corresponding to a

selection of the indirect link included in the first information web page;
[Specification, page 7, line 21 through page 8, line 21, and Fig. 5]

3. determining if a second web server hosting the second information object is operational; *[Specification, page 7, line 21 through page 8, line 21, and Fig. 5]*

4. returning an instruction redirecting the client terminal to the second information web page if the second web server is determined to be operational. *[Specification, page 7, line 21 through page 8, line 21, and Fig. 5]*

Claims 45-48 include limitations similar to those found in Claims 17-20, now cancelled. Consequently, the addition of Claims 43-48 is supported by the Specification and does not add new matter.

DRAWINGS: The Examiner objected to the drawings noting that Fig. 4 does not include reference signs that are mentioned in the description. Proposed drawing corrections are appended to this response. Should the Examiner find the proposed corrections to be acceptable, a new set of formal drawings accompanies this response.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC § 102: The Examiner rejected Claims 1-20 as being unpatentable over USPN 6,279,001 issued to DeBettencourt. Claims 1-20 have been cancelled rendering the rejection moot. Moreover, each of the claims added (Claims 21-48) include at least one limitation not taught or suggested by DeBettencourt.
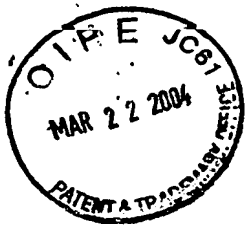
CONCLUSION: The foregoing is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Claims 21-48 are felt to be in condition for allowance. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing these claims and passing the application to issue is earnestly solicited. The foregoing is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,

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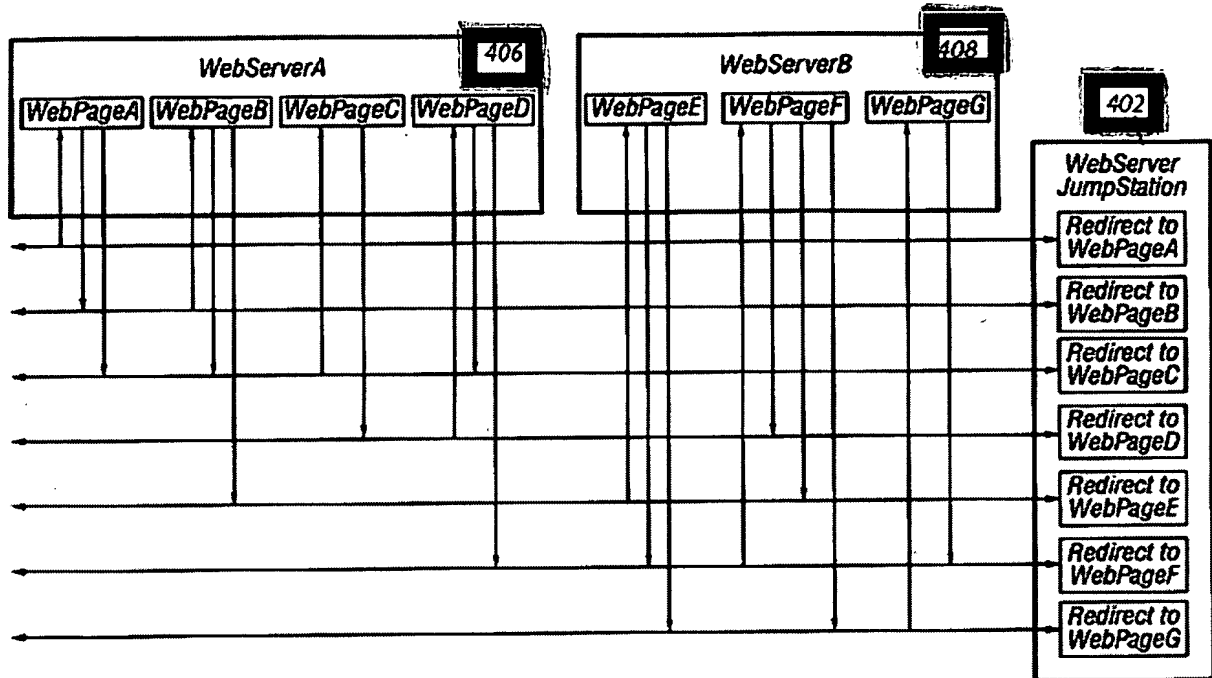March 18, 2004

PROPOSED DRAWING CORRECTION

FIG. 4